

495—7.3(97B) Vesting status.**7.3(1) General.**

a. Effective July 1, 1990, through June 30, 2005, a member achieves vested status when the member has served and made contributions in 16 or more quarters of IPERS covered employment or attains the age of 55. The vested status of a member may also be determined when the member's contribution payments cease. At that time a comparison of the membership date and termination date will be made. If service sufficient to indicate vested status is present, after any periods of interruption in service have been taken into consideration, the member shall be considered a vested member. All vested members receive all the rights and benefits of a vested member in IPERS until or unless the member files for a refund of accumulated contributions.

b. Effective July 1, 2005, a terminated nonvested member who has not attained the age of 55 shall not become vested upon attainment of the age of 55 while an inactive member. However, a member who terminates before attaining the age of 55 who has covered wages in the calendar year when the member terminates and the member attains the age of 55 in that year shall become vested, even if the member has less than 16 quarters of service credit on file at termination.

7.3(2) *Inactive members who become vested due to a statutory reduction in years.* Effective July 1, 1988, an inactive member who had accumulated, as of the date of the member's last termination of employment, years of membership service equal to or exceeding the years of membership service specified in this rule for qualifying as a vested member on the date of termination shall be considered vested.

7.3(3) *Vesting upon complete or partial termination.* In the case of a complete or partial termination of this fund, any affected member shall have a vested interest in the accrued benefit as of the date of such termination, to the extent such benefit is then funded.